



Personal Management

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Worksheet developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2003, Workbook updated: September 2008.

Worksheet revised by Troop 3 – Tracey Shultz November 2008.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: Troop 3, Fort Smith _____

Counselor's Name: Tracey Shultz _____ Counselor's Ph #: 479-648-1720 _____

1. Do the following:

a. Choose an item that your family might want to purchase that is considered a major expense. _____

b. Write a plan that tells how your family would save money for the purchase identified in requirement 1a. _____

1. Discuss the plan with your merit badge counselor. _____

2. Discuss the plan with your family. _____

3. Discuss how other family needs must be considered in this plan. _____

c. Develop a written shopping strategy for the purchase identified in requirement 1a.

1. Determine the quality of the item or service (using consumer publications or ratings systems). _____

2. Comparison shop for the item. Find out where you can buy the item for the best price. (Provide prices from at least two different price sources.)

Call around; study ads. Look for a sale or discount coupon. Consider alternatives. _____

Can you buy the item used? _____

Should you wait for a sale? _____

2. Do the following:

a. Prepare a budget reflecting your expected income (allowance, gifts, wages), expenses, and savings. Track your actual income, expenses, and savings for 13 *consecutive* weeks. (You may use the forms provided in this pamphlet, devise your own, or use a computer-generated version.) When complete, present the results to your merit badge counselor.

b. Compare expected income with expected expenses. _____

1. If expenses exceed income, determine steps to balance your budget. - or -

2. If income exceeds expenses, state how you would use the excess money (new goal, savings). _____

3. Discuss with your merit badge counselor FIVE of the following concepts:

a. The emotions you feel when you receive money. _____

b. Your understanding of how the amount of money you have with you affects your spending habits. _____

c. Your thoughts when you buy something new _____

and your thoughts about the same item three months later. _____

Explain the concept of buyer's remorse. _____

d. How hunger affects you when shopping for food items (snacks, groceries). _____

e. Your experience of an item you have purchased after seeing or hearing advertisements for it. Did the item work as well as advertised? _____

f. Your understanding of what happens when you put money into a savings account. _____

g. Charitable giving. Explain its purpose _____

and your thoughts about it. _____

h. What you can do to better manage your money. _____

4. Explain the following to your merit badge counselor:

a. The differences between saving _____

and investing, _____

including reasons for using one over the other. _____

b. The concepts of return on investment _____

and risk. _____

c. The concepts of simple interest _____

and compound interest _____

and how these affected the results of your investment exercise. _____

5. Select five publicly traded stocks from the business section of the newspaper. Explain to your merit badge counselor the importance of the following information for each stock:

- a. Current price
- b. How much the price changed from the previous day
- c. The 52-week high and the 52-week low prices

| Stock | Current Price | 1 Day Change | 52 wk High | 52 wk Low |
|-------|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

6. Pretend you have \$1,000 to save, invest, and help prepare yourself for the future. Explain to your merit badge counselor the advantages or disadvantages of saving or investing in each of the following:

| | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|------------|---------------|
| a. Common stocks | _____ | _____ |
| b. Mutual funds | _____ | _____ |
| c. Life insurance | _____ | _____ |
| d. A certificate of deposit (CD) | _____ | _____ |
| e. A savings account or U.S. savings bond | _____ | _____ |

7. Explain to your merit badge counselor the following:

a. What a loan is, _____

what interest is, _____

and how the annual percentage rate (APR) measures the true cost of a loan. _____

b. The different ways to borrow money. _____

c. The differences between a charge card, _____

debit card, _____

9. Prepare a written project plan demonstrating the steps below, including the desired outcome. This is a project on paper, not a real-life project. Examples could include planning a camping trip, developing a community service project or a school or religious event, or creating an annual patrol plan with additional activities not already included in the troop annual plan. Discuss your completed project plan with your merit badge counselor.

a. Define the project. What is your goal? _____

b. Develop a timeline for your project that shows the steps you must take from beginning to completion. _____

c. Describe your project. _____

d. Develop a list of resources. Identify how these resources will help you achieve your goal.

e. If necessary, develop a budget for your project. _____

10. Do the following:

a. Choose a career you might want to enter after high school or college graduation. _____

b. Research the limitations of your anticipated career _____

and discuss with your merit badge counselor what you have learned about qualifications such as education, skills, and experience. _____

Online Resources (Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)

Boy Scouts of America: ▶ scouting.org ▶ [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ▶ [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ▶ [Safe Swim Defense](#)
▶ [Scout](#) ▶ [Tenderfoot](#) ▶ [Second Class](#) ▶ [First Class](#) ▶ [Rank Videos](#) ▶ [Safety Afloat](#)

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org **Merit Badge Books:** www.scoutstuff.org

ExpertVillage Computer Video Lessons: ▶ [How to Create a Budget in Excel](#)

▶ [Insurance](#)

▶ [Investing](#)

▶ [Money Managing](#)

▶ [Balancing a Checkbook](#)

Requirement Resources:

2a How to Set Up a Personal Budget: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_budget [SMART Goals](#)

3c Buyers Remorse: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buyer's_remorse

4a Savings vs. Investment: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saving>

4b Return on Investment: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rate_of_return Risk: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Investment_risk

Simple & Compound Interest: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interest>

5 Stocks: <http://moneycentral.msn.com/> <http://screener.finance.yahoo.com/> <http://finance.aol.com/usw/quotes/mostactives>

8a Time Management: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_management <http://www.time-management-guide.com/>

General Resources:

Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov>

The Motley Fool: <http://www.fool.com>

Consumer Protection FTC: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/>

Nat. Assn of Investors: <http://www.better-investing.org>

Guide to Financial Aid: <http://www.finaid.org> <http://www.students.gov> <http://www.studentaid.ed.gov> <http://www.youngbiz.com>

Northwestern Mutual Foundation, The Mint teaches concepts: <http://www.themint.com>